

concurrently herewith is a request for a one-month extension of time so that the present amendment is due May 11, 2001. The present amendment after final is proposed for correcting minor matters to place this application in better condition for appeal. A notice of appeal is being submitted concurrently herewith.

In the office action, claims 1-5, 7, 9, 33 and 34 were pending. Of these, claims 2, 4, 5 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for minor technical matters. This proposed amendments are to correct such informalities and are not submitted to overcome the prior art.

Claims 2 and 5 have been amended to reflect that the former recitation of "stop member" refers to the --ear-- in claim 1 and not to some other stop member. Claim 4 is amended to correct antecedent basis. Claim 34 has been amended to clarify that the stop member recited therein limits the longitudinal movement of the valve body within the sleeve between the open and closed positions.

No amendments are made with respect to the prior art rejections of claims 1-5, 7, 9, or 33. Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has allowed claim 35 and has indicated that claim 34 would be allowed with the correction to eliminate the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant request that the Examiner enter this amendment and enter a notice of allowance of claims 34 and 35. Action to that end is courteously solicited. If any issues remain to be resolved in this